THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government of India has been implementing two schemes for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work, namely the scheme of National Child Labour Project (NCLPs) and the scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisation's. In its meeting held on 20.01.99 Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the continuance of the scheme of NCLPs for the duration of the Ninth Plan and expansion of the number of projects to 100. At present 92 NCLPs are in operation in 10 child labour endemic states for rehabilitation of 1.9 lakh children working in hazardous occupations. Projects are also being implemented by Voluntary Agencies under the Grant-in-Aid scheme of the Ministry. Child labour is a socio-economic problem which needs sustained efforts over a long period of time. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem and the constraint of resources, a gradual, progressive and sequential approach has been adopted for withdrawal of children from work and their rehabilitation.

Fight against adverse impact of liberalisation

4934. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work federation trade unions propose to fight the adverse impact of liberalisation and globalization in developing countries;

(b) if so, the views expressed by the Indian representatives in this regard; and

(c) the views expressed for lifting of economic blockade against India, Iraq, China, etc. and payment of compensation for suffering on account of illegal and arbitrary measures by big military powers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The 14th World Congress of Trade Union held at New Delhi from 23rd to 28th March, 2000 generally cautioned the trade unions and the people against the adverse impact of liberalisation and globalisation, expecially in developing countries. There was no representation from the Indian Government in the Congress whereas many Trade Union Organisations of India participated.

(c) The Conference condemned the blockage, sanctions, economic pressures and boycotts as economic aggression and attempts at political

blackmail against member countries of the UN. The Conference, therefore, demanded the immediate lifting of the sanctions and boycotts and the payment of compensation to all those who suffered because of these illegal arbitrary measures.

Total Deposit in EPF

4935. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total deposit of provident fund till today;

(b) the provident fund arrear pending on different employees till 31st December 1999;

(c) the pattern of investment of provident fund; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Government have unilaterally reduced the interest on provident fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) As on 31.3.99 progressive total amount of P.F. invested was Rs. 70,000.99 crore.

(b) Rs. 1129.94 crore.

(c) The EPF contributions not required for immediate disbursement are invested as per the pattern prescribed by the Ministry of Finance. Accordingly, 40% of PF money is invested in Government securities, 40% in public financial institutions and the remaining 20% has been left at discretion of the Board of Trustees for investment either in Government securities or in public financial institutions. The Board of Trustees subject to their assessment of risk return prospects have also been given an option to make investment upto 10% out of 20% in private sector bonds/securities having investment grade rating from at least two credit rating agencies.

(d) No, Sir.